

■ Choose good books.

- Begin by choosing wordless books, picture books, and books of nursery rhymes.
- Make sure the vocabulary and the content are appropriate for your child's interest, vocabulary, and level of comprehension.
- Make sure the pictures are clear and realistic and correspond to the words on the page. You may tell the story by talking about the pictures.
- Select books for your child that are about familiar events and experiences that might occur in his/her own life.
- Choose books with content that is unbiased in terms of gender, race, culture, age, individual differences, and individual abilities.
- Select books that you enjoy as well. Remember, much of your child's enjoyment of books is the result of knowing that you're also enjoying the book.
- Select a variety of books, and let your child help select books whenever possible.
- Look for books that have repetitive language, rhythm, or rhymes that your child can say with you or plots in which your child can predict what will happen next.
- Ask the librarian at your local library for suggestions of books and/or ask other parents about the books their children enjoy.

■ Familiarize yourself with each book before reading it to your child.

Remember, the more familiar you are with the story, the easier it will be for you to interpret the story and to ask meaningful questions about it, such as "What do you think will happen next?"

■ Introduce each book to your child.

Read the title of the book out loud, then look at and talk about the pictures on the cover. Invite your child to guess what the book will be about. Tell your child who wrote the book and who drew/painted the pictures. When appropriate, familiarize your child with the book's author and illustrator by telling him/her the name of each.

■ Try to match reading time to your child's attention span and comfort level.

If your child becomes restless before the story is finished, you might say, "I like this story, but it's a little long. Let's finish it tomorrow."

■ Ask questions that have more than one answer.

- Ask questions that will encourage your child to think and talk.
 - "What do you think might happen if...?"
 - "How might the story have ended differently?"
- Ask questions that will encourage your child to give his/her opinion.
 - "What was your favorite part of the story?"
 - "Would you like to have (name of a character) as a friend?" "Why or why not?"
 - "Did you enjoy this book?" "Why or why not?"

■ Remember that your child's interests in and preferences for certain types of books will change with age and development.

Infants simply enjoy being read to, hearing the sound of your voice, and having you near. Toddlers enjoy board books, big books, and books that have few words on each page with pictures that are clear and easily identified.

■ Read familiar favorites over and over.

As your child becomes more familiar with a book, he/she will begin to "read" it with you. Your child will learn to recognize certain words and phrases and will repeat them with you.

■ Remind your child,

“BE NICE
TO YOUR BOOKS,
THEY ARE
YOUR FRIENDS.”



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